

CA Water Plan 2013: Tulare Lake Regional Report Comments

Maria Herrera [maria.herrera@communitywatercenter.org]

Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2013 1:30 AM

To: DWR CWP Comments

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and provide feedback on the Public Draft of the CA Water Plan Update 2013 - Tulare Lake Basin Regional Report.

As an organization that works with communities who lack access to safe drinking water, we would like to thank you for recognizing the lack of safe drinking for local communities in the region and for the inclusion of objective 13: Equitable distribution of Benefits.

Below are a few comments:

Groundwater Quality and/or under Drinking Water

1

Please consider expanding this section to also include the known challenges individual private well owners and communities of private well owners face in the region. Some of the challenges include water quality challenges, inadequate or aging infrastructure and limited resources and information for this types of communities.

Drinking Water:

2

Include study findings of the Assessing Water Affordability Report. This report studies water affordability in the Tulare Lake Basin Region. Report can be found here:

<http://www.pacinst.org/publication/assessing-water-affordability/>.

Disadvantaged Communities (DACs):

3

Need to note that many times DACs are embedded within larger communities and larger geographies that do not share the same severity of needs.

It is also important to distinguish between DACs such as the City of Fresno and Several Disadvantaged Communities (SDACs) like Seville, Monson, East Orosi etc. 155 of the 370 communities identified in the Tulare Lake Basin area as part of the Tulare Lake Basin DAC study are classified as severely disadvantaged communities (SDACs). An SDAC is defined as a community whose MHI is 60 percent or less of the statewide median household income.

The report should also acknowledge the various challenges DACs face when seeking to participate in the Integrated Regional Water Management Planning efforts. For example, lack of representation within IRWMs; lack of technical assistance with project application preparation, and lack of effective outreach to DACs.

Accomplishments:

- 4 Consider naming the Kings Basin Disadvantaged Communities Water Study and including the list of recommendations devolved to improve DAC participation in the Integrated Regional Water Management Planning efforts (http://www.krcd.org/water/ukbirwma/dac_pilot_study.html); and efforts underway through the Tulare Lake Basin Disadvantaged Community Water Study to develop a road map to provide safe drinking water and adequate wastewater services for DACs.
- 5 Consider mentioning new funding programs currently being piloted through California Department of Public Health (CDPH), e e.g. Pre-Planning and Legal Entity Formation funding, consolidation incentive and new funding for interim drinking water sources. <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/services/funding/Pages/SRF.aspx>
- 6 Furthermore, please consider mentioning the Northern Tulare County Regional Surface water Project and how this project seeks to solve a region's drinking water challenges through a partnership between various communities and a local irrigation district. More information on the project can be found here: <http://www.fresnobee.com/2013/08/25/3460133/tulare-co-water-fix-nearing.html>.

Sincerely,

Maria

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Maria Herrera
Community Advocacy Director
311 W. Murray Ave.
Visalia, CA 93291
Ph: 559-733-0219
Cell: 559-859-3326
Fax: 559-733-8219

www.communitywatercenter.org